

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (AMENDED) An automotive interior trim piece adapted to cover an air bag installation when said trim piece is installed in an automotive vehicle, said trim piece preweakened along a predetermined pattern so as to enable formation of an air bag deployment opening in said trim piece by pressure exerted by an air bag deploying from an inner side of said trim piece, said trim piece having an inner surface and an outer surface, said outer surface visible when said trim piece is installed in an automotive vehicle, said outer surface extending smoothly and uninterruptedly across said preweakening pattern, said preweakening comprising a scoring penetrating into said inner surface and extending along said predetermined pattern, said scoring having a substantially regularly stepped depth configuration along said predetermined pattern but not completely penetrating through to said outer surface; said stepped depth configuration cut into said cover by a cyclically varying intensity laser beam.

Please amend claims 24 and 25 as follows:

24. (AMENDED) A preweakened automotive interior trim piece for covering an air bag installation for an automotive vehicle, said preweakening extending in a predetermined pattern enabling formation of an air bag deployment opening in said trim piece by pressure exerted by deployment of said air bag mounted on the inside of said trim piece at a particular location, said trim piece having a plurality of layers including an outer layer and an inner layer, said outer layer having an outer visible surface extending smoothly and uninterruptedly across